

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 19, 1875, with transcript

Brantford, Ont., Canada, April 19th, 75. (Prof. A. G. Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U.S.) My dear Aleck,

I am writing this at your Uncle's, for a long letter I wrote you yesterday, has been left behind in my writing case. We feel very unhappy about you, knowing that silence bodes no good. You will be sorry to know that we are all in grief and trouble. I had a letter from your Uncle James ten days ago, in which he mentioned having been unwell from what he thought to be some internal derangement, but which startled us, it seemed so much like paralysis. A letter arrived on Friday from Mary, saying she had been Telegraphed for from Bath, and found her Father had a severe stroke and was then lying unconscious. He rallied however, and knew them all looking happy at seeing her beside him. Next day another letter arrived saying that all was over: He died on the third of April. The poor girls are now left desolate, without a near relation in Britain, and we have written urging them to sell off, and make their home with us. Papa has also written to Mr. Anderson for him to advise and manage their affairs for them. Dr. Thompson your Uncle's old mess-mate, and Mr. McDougal were very attentive, Mary said, and no doubt they will see that all is right. Your Papa advises them to sail from 2 Glasgow to Quebec(the ink is so thick I can hardly write).I know that poor Uncle did not enjoy his life here, and was longing to be in a better world, so that for him perhaps we ought not to grieve. About the same time, Mrs. Lefroy Aunt Ellen's Sister, died of the same complaint, with which she had long been threatened. We have another distress at home. Little Pollie is at least 8 months(if not more) pregnant by William!! She has been an impudent little puss, and Papa has seen forwardnesses on her part, which needed severe reproof. We don't know yet what we shall be able to do. Miss Rye has not answered my note of information. Pollie does not appear to be in the least ashamed. W. feels it a great deal more, and has tried in vain all about our own place

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and Newport, to find some one to take her in, till the affair is over. I suppose we shall have to send her to the hospital at Toronto. After she is well again, Carrie will probably take her, as she cannot come to us again to be with William. Do you remember Mrs. R. Cathcart, sister-in-law to our friends in Oakley Square? She has also just died, and Pollie Cathcart was also very unwell, by the last accounts. Uncle has not yet commenced building, but has hired another home for one year, as this must be given up in a fortnight. Hoping the best of you my dear boy, and with fond love from all, I am,

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell.